THE PACIFIC

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Some of These Days

Some of these days all skies will be brighter,
Some of these days all burdens will be lighter,
Hearts will be purer, souls will be whiter,
Some of these days.

Some of these days in the desert upspringing
Fountains shall flash while joy bells are ringing.
And all the world with its best birds are singing,
Some of these days.

Some of these days! Oh, why should we sorrow?
Faith in the future its light let us borrow.
Oh, there'll be joy in the golden morrow.
Some of these days.

—Frank L. Stanton.

A Meeting of the Ministers of San Francisco and Vicinity

A Survey of Conditions

The Congregational ministers of San Francisco and vicinity met last Monday in the chapel of the Pacific Theological Seminary in Berkeley. The opening prayer by the Rev. W. H. Hopkins voiced the aspiration of all that it might be an hour wherein courage should be gained for the days to come.

The Rev. Dr. Adams, of the First Church of San Francisco, reported that the last meeting held in his church was the regular prayer meeting on Wednesday evening, April the 18th. Of course only a few persons were in attendance. About a quarter past five on Thursday morning the spire of the church went down and in a short time thereafter its destruction was complete, only a part of the walls being left standing after the fire had subsided. Of the 580 members supposed to be in the city on the morning of the 18th, it is known that 325 were burned out, and another hundred had to move because the flames came so near to them. Perhaps 250 out of the 800 members of the church can be gathered together after a while. For two Sundays the First Church has worshiped with the Plymouth Church people, whose building, though damaged to the extent of several thousand dollars, is usable. This arrangement will continue for a time, Dr. Meserve and Dr. Adams alternating in the preaching.

Dr. Adams says: "The church will be rebuilt whether on the old lot or on some other we cannot yet determine; but the spirit of the members who have been found is one of determination to restore the church to its old position of influence and helpfulness. Although it will take time and much hard work, I shall stay right here and pull together what I can from the wreck."

The insurance on the building amounted to $40,000.

Concerning some who for many years have been generous supporters of the work Dr. Adams said: "It will take years for our men of means to recover from their losses, if indeed they ever recover."

Invitations were received by the First Church to a share in the accommodations of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal, the English Lutheran and the Bush street synagogue, but it has seemed best to join forces with Plymouth.

Reporting concerning Plymouth, Dr. Meserve said that the building was damaged to the extent of $4,000 or $5,000, and that the people were much scattered. He was unable to say what the church could do. For some time previous to the earthquake and the fire the future had been one of considerable promise. It was a comfort, said Dr. Meserve, that in these days following the calamity the First and Plymouth Churches are together.

As we write we wonder whether the expressed convictions of Dr. Meserve in one of the meetings of the ministers about three months ago may not be realized. It was that the time would come when the First and Plymouth would be united at some point on Van Ness avenue, and that this union would come about in Dr. Adams' day.

The Rev. E. L. Walz, pastor of the Fourth Church, told of the burning of his church and home, and stated that only six houses were left of the two hundred belonging to the people of his parish. Generally there was no insurance on their household goods and large numbers are penniless.

It was stated that the Fourth Church had not missed a prayer meeting nor a morning preaching

service. The church building burned on Thursday night; the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walz on Friday. They had thought that the home would be spared, but they had to run finally for their lives.

The church has its field in a locality which is certain to show marked advancement after recovery has been made from the fire. Speaking with reference to it, Dr. Adams said that five years ago it could not have held together under such a stroke.

Mrs. Walz went East Monday evening to enlist personal friends in the work of re-establishment.

According to the report of Rev. S. C. Patterson, the pastor, the fire did not get nearer than five blocks to Bethany Church. The building was, however, badly damaged by the earthquake, and it will cost perhaps $3,000 to make repairs. It was stated that a meeting of the congregation had been held, and that the decision was to try to go on, and that the church would pay the pastor what it could. At the business meeting a committee was appointed to consider the question of a union with the Third Church. The opinion of Mr. Patterson is that the two churches cannot continue.

No representative of the Third Church was in attendance at the Monday meeting, and there was accordingly no report as to the outlook in that field. The edifice, as was stated in The Pacific last week, was burned.

The veteran Chaplain Rowell of the Mariners Church, in telling of the destruction of their building, remarked: "My occupation is gone; my income is gone, but I am young." He said also that he had been praying for some time for an adequate building for the work among the seamen, and it might be that through this catastrophe would come what was needed. Mr. Rowell was one of the many eye-witnesses of the great conflagration, and he says that the sight was a magnificent one, though terrible. His own home was left standing, but the flames came up to the fence in the rear and charred it. Yielding to the entreaty of friends, Chaplain Rowell left his home one night and slept out of doors, and slept long and well, although there was heavy dynamiting within three hundred feet of him.

The Rev. T. R. Earl, pastor of Park church, stated that $200 would in all probability repair the damage done to their building, although it had a terrible rocking in the earthquake. The home is in the church building, and Mrs. Earl was thrown from her bed and a son attempting to walk across the room was tossed from side to side. Mr. Earl stated that many of the people in the neighborhood of Park Church were somewhat panic-stricken and wanted to get away. Nevertheless, it was said the outlook is good for future growth. In the course of his remarks he paid tribute to Mr. Pattinson, the carpenter who built the church edifice. There had been no poor work on it and therefore it stood with slight damage the terrible shaking to which it was subjected. Except as to the chimneys the brick work came through without a flaw.

Reporting for the Richmond Church, Mr. Luckenbach, the pastor, said that some of the plastering will have to be replaced, but that $500 will cover all damage. The people of the district, however, are scattered, many are yet moving out, and some buildings are being torn down. Of the seventy-five in attendance at church service last Sunday morning, only twenty were of their own people.

Mr. Hathaway, of the Pierce Street Church, reported that there was no serious damage there and that there was a good attendance at the Sunday services.

Olivet Church was not represented at the meeting; nor were Bethlehem, Sunset and Ocean View. As to the latter, we heard a few days ago through the Rev. Huber Burr, a former pastor, who made a visit to the people of Sunset and Ocean View, that there was much nervousness and uneasiness. Both the church and parsonage at Ocean View suffered damage.

Report was made of the destruction of the Chinese Mission building and the edifice of the Swedish Church.

The Rev. Mr. Patchell, of San Jose, said that a few hundred dollars would cover the damage sustained by the church at San Jose; nor will the losses of the church members be heavy. It was stated that one good result in San Jose would be the union of two weak churches of the Disciples of Christ, or "Christian." In that city the building of the First Presbyterian Church was ruined, and that of the First Methodist considerably damaged.

The report from Redwood, by the Rev. L. D. Rathbone, who had received a letter from Mr. Kirtland, the pastor, was that the church building had been wrecked and that the people had been worshiping with the Methodists the last two Sundays. The plan at Redwood is to put up a tent which will accommodate about 150 persons, if it can be had.

Concerning Santa Rosa the report was that the church building would have to be replastered.

The Rev. C. R. Brown stated that the Rev. Mr. Burgess, pastor of the Second Church of Oakland, was not in attendance at the meeting for the reason that the losses sustained by members of his church making it impossible for the church to support a pastor, Mr. B. had secured a position with an insurance company and was already at work. He will continue to act

as pastor of the church, taking in way of salary what may be paid.

In view of the conditions Mr. Brown then expressed the opinion that help from outside sources was needed. He stated that members of the First Church had lost much in San Francisco, that they would not be able to give as they had been giving; that in all our churches incomes were cut down and off; that many were going away; and, that the needs of the stricken churches of San Francisco and elsewhere, wherever the destruction had been severe, ought to be laid before the Congregational churches of the whole country.

It was voted that a committee for such purpose be costituted, and the Rev. Messrs. Brown, Adams, Meserve, McLean and Wikoff were appointed.

Mention was made by Dr. McLean of an interdenominational movement for the location for the general good of the churches to be re-established in San Francisco, and Superintendent Harrison and Dr. Adams were constituted a committee to act with those to be appointed by other denominations.

Superintendent Harrison made the cheering report that the year recently ended had been the best the California Home Missionary Society had had, and that there was in the special fund the sum of $5,500. But churches that have not been aided recently will have to be given aid again, was the added remark, and so the need in greater than before.

The Rev. H. H. Wikoff reported that he had received from a church in Los Angeles the sum of $75 to be used as seemed best, and it was turned over to the committee which had been appointed to consider and press the needs of the stricken churches and other interests that were sure to suffer from the disaster. Dr. McLean reported $55 received from Fort Worth, Texas; the Rev. M. B. Fisher, $12 from Cameron, Mo., and Prof. Buckham, $200 from Pilgrim Church, Salem, Mass. All these were placed at the disposal of the committee.

Notes

Address all letters for The Pacific, to 2716 Hillegass avenue, Berkeley.

The Pacific Coast Congregational Congress will meet in Los Angeles on the 16th of May, and will continue for one week.

The California Christian Advocate states that fully $500,000 is needed to re-establish Methodism in San Francisco.

The calendar of the First Church of Los Angeles for Sunday, April 22, was bordered in black. This typified the sorrow which was in the hearts of that people over the appalling disaster hereabouts.

Prof. Buckham of Pacific Theological Seminary, accompanied by his family, will go East next week to spend the summer.

The Pacific, according to the word coming to us, had royal welcome in many homes when the copies of the last issue reached their destination.

We quote from one of several letters received: "Dear Pacific—Welcome to our home. We are very glad to see you again. May your size increase and hope swell big. Yours cordially, CHESTER FERRIS, Petaluma."

Arrangements have been made for a meeting of the Congregational ministers of San Francisco and vicinity each Monday at 11 A. M., in the chapel of the Pacific Theological Seminary in Berkeley.

The Rev. H. M. Tenney, the Pacific Coast district secretary of the American Board, Rev. H. H. Wikoff, of the Church Building Society, Rev. E. J. Singer, of the Sunday School Society, and Superintendent Harrison, of the California Home Missionary Society, have established offices in the Pacific Theological Seminary building in Berkeley.

We have read in the Chicago-Record-Herald and in the Cleveland Plain Dealer accounts of the great calamity in San Francisco, and have found them surprisingly accurate. There was very little exaggeration. Our Eastern friends had better reports of the disaster than we had who were in the vicinity of San Francisco. The Los Angeles Times and the Portland Oregonian had excellent reports.

The Rev. Dr. Gladden, the moderator of the Congregational National Council, is expected to arrive in California next week. On Wednesday evening, the 9th, he will speak in the First Congregational Church of Oakland. Some time during the week he will speak in Plymouth Church, San Francisco. Sunday morning, the 14th, he will give the sermon in Plymouth Church, and in the evening will be in the pulpit of the First Church of Oakland. On Monday, the 15th, he is to address a union meeting of the ministers of San Francisco and vicinity, in the First Church of Oakland. He will go from this part of the State to Los Angeles to attend the Pacific Coast Congress.

People who are nervous and uneasy—under apprehension lest another earthquake disaster come upon us, should try to calm themselves. We say, "should try," because there is a great deal in will power. It should be remembered that nearly forty years separated the two severe shocks which California has sustained. It would be well also for any who may

have more of a desire now to go back East to remember that tornadoes and cyclones wipe out whole towns there in a few seconds of time. There are no safety spots on this old earth. The following from the Chicago Inter-Ocean is worth repeating in this connection: "In location, strategetically and commercially considered, San Francisco is not unlike Constantinople or Tokio. The great city of the Pacific Coast will be at the Golden Gate or on San Francisco Bay, earthquakes or no earthquakes. England has had more earthquakes than San Francisco had previous to Wednesday. There were severe shocks in 1089, 1142, 1274 and 1318. In the earthquake of April 6, 1580, many buildings in London were wrecked, among them St. Paul's and Temple Churches. There were earthquakes in England in 1750, 1852, 1871 and 1884, each doing considerable damage. Peking, China, lost 100,000 inhabitants in the earthquake of 1731, but has not been materially injured by earthquakes since. Cairo, in Egypt, lost half its houses and 40,000 of its inhabitants in 1754, but has had no disaster of the kind since."

Among the right utterances concerning San Francisco is that of Mr. D. O. Mills, of New York, who said last week to a Herald reporter:: "One might as well think of abandoning the whole State of California as to consider leaving San Francisco in its ruins. * * * To leave the land to lie idle would be to pile even greater losses on those who have already suffered. It is not to be thought of any more than the tragedy of abandoning the entire State would be seriously considered." Mr. Mills further said: "If San Francisco alone had been destroyed there might be some reason for hesitation in rebuilding it, but all accounts agree that other points suffered to as great or even a greater extent from the earthquake." These are facts to be emphasized. From Salinas to Santa Rosa there was comparatively more destruction from the earthquake than there was in San Francisco. The abandonment of San Francisco would mean logically the abandonment of a vast additional territory, and is of course something which cannot for a moment be seriously considered. Many years ago when what was known as "the Oregon country" was under discussion, a lecturer said in Boston: "Rather than have new States formed beyond the Rocky mountains, to be added to our present Union, it would be a lesser evil, as far as that Union is concerned, if the unoccupied portion of the Oregon territory should sink into Symme's hole, leaving the western base of those mountains and the border of the Pacific ocean one and the same." But the sixty-five or seventy years since then have shown the value of all this Pacific Coast region. Nowhere in the country today is there any desire, for any reason whatever, that any part of the coast should slip into the Pacific ocean or be abandoned because of disaster. For our future development as a nation our whole coast line is needed.

From Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Ferrier:

Out of chaos comes a copy of the new born Pacific. Its four pages infold assurance of a future which shall measure up with the future of re-built San Francisco. The modest sheet, which has just winged its way down from the new editorial quarters in Berkeley, is very large for its size. Immensely less of living thought has often appeared in papers, religious and secular, which were immensely larger in surface dimensions. Many have been asking whether the Pacific has been burned or baptized. The four-paged messenger sent out of the Berkeley office hopefully answers that question. That is a good number for the first in the file for the next fifty years. May be, a considerable number of the back numbers can be secured. But at best, so many copies of the old file will be missing that the loss will be great.

The situation at San Francisco, which in the public thought, covers all the region affected by the great catastrophe, has left little room for other matters. Interblended with the solicitude for the metropolis of the Pacific Coast, has been the added anxiety for our churches and membership. There is room for unexpected outcomes. What if there had been no Oakland or Berkeley? Rev. William Horace Day spent a few hours on last Friday in getting a glimpse of the ruins, and in conference with Dr. Adams and Rev. C. R. Brown, touching one or two others by telephone; there was not time for more. He brought back about all that heart and brain could hold. The Pacific Coast Congress is going on. Some topics may be discussed in that gathering which are not now on the program, I will enclose a program. Please read a great deal between the lines for your own situation.

At the open door of my heart,

WARREN F. DAY.

Joy and Woe

"Joy and woe are woven fine,
A clothing for the soul divine;
Under every grief and pine
Runs a joy with silken twine.
It is right it should be so;
Man was made for joy and woe;
And when this we rightly know,
Safely through the world we go."